

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 820

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Authors: Applebaum and others

Subject: Merit-based grant program established

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Overview

H.F. 820 establishes a merit-based grant program for Minnesota residents attending a school in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) or University of Minnesota system. Grants made through the program would cover the cost of tuition and fees, less any federal Pell or state grants for which a student is eligible.

Students would be eligible for the program if they are Minnesota residents pursuing a four-year degree and have less than \$100,000 in family adjusted gross income, among other qualifications. To qualify for a scholarship, a student must earn a 3.5 GPA and a 25 on the ACT standardized test, or the equivalent.

Section

1 High-achieving Minnesotan grants. Establishes a merit-based grant program in the Office of Higher Education. Outlines eligibility for such grants, the application process, the size of the grants, and how the program must be administered.

Subd. 1. Eligibility for grants. Outlines eligibility requirements to receive grants. To receive a grant, a student must be:

- A resident of Minnesota.
- A high school graduate or 17 years old.
- Not in default of federal or state loans.
- From a family with less than \$100,000 of adjusted gross income.

Section

- Accepted at or planning to enroll in a four-year undergraduate degree program at a MnSCU or University of Minnesota school.
- Meet the academic eligibility requirements listed in subd. 2.

Subd. 2. Academic eligibility requirements. Describes the academic eligibility requirements to receive a grant. Students must have a 3.5 high school GPA and receive a 25 on the ACT, or an equivalent GPA or test score.

Subd. 3. Application. Describes the process to apply for grants.

Subd. 4. Allocation. Requires grants to be awarded on a funds available basis.

Subd. 5. Grant stipends. Requires grant stipends to pay for the costs of tuition and fees not covered by federal Pell or state grants for a four-year undergraduate degree program at MnSCU or the University of Minnesota.

Subd. 6. Insufficient appropriation. Requires the commissioner to reduce all grants proportionally if insufficient funds are awarded.

Subd. 7. Awards. Limits participation to students who do not have baccalaureate degrees or have been in school for eight semesters.

Subd. 8. Renewal. Describes the conditions for renewal of the grant. To renew a grant, an applicant must reside in Minnesota, make satisfactory academic progress, and be recommended by the institution.

2 Appropriation; high-achieving Minnesotan grants. Appropriates money to the Office of Higher Education to fund the grant program established in section 1.